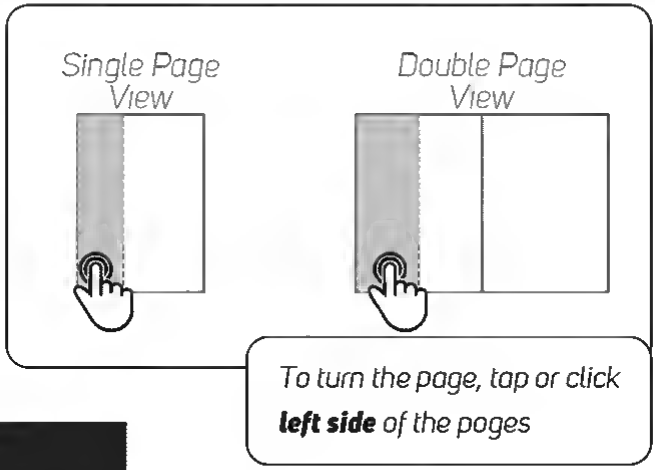
A **COMIC ZENON** Production

Arte

by KEI OHKUBO

This manga is read in
RIGHT to LEFT
page order



PLEASE TAP
LEFT
TO BEGIN!

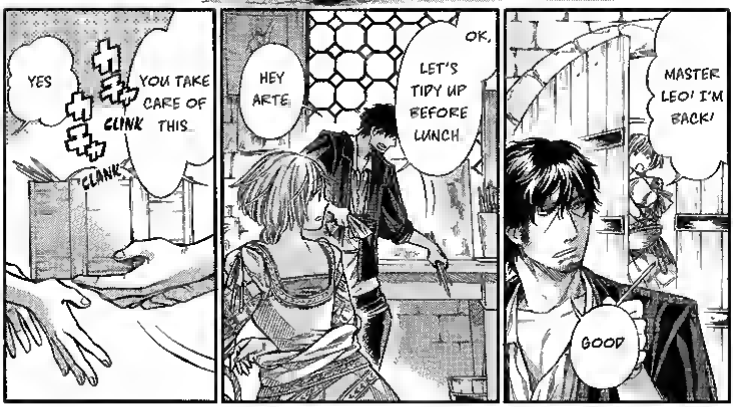
LIFT
SNAP
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
HEY! WHO IS NEXT?
CHATTER
OKAY, THAT'S TWO LOAVES
CHATTER
WHO'S NEXT?
THEY'RE READY!
WHO'S THE THREE LOAF ORDER?
CHATTER
A gust of heat,
A bustling crowd.
IN THE RENAISSANCE, COMMONERS DID NOT HAVE OVENS, SO THEY EITHER SHARED ONE OR BROUGHT THEIR DOUGH TO A BAKER TO BAKE IT FOR THEM.
HEY! MINE READY YET?
OH!
MI SCUSI.
THEY ARE TOO SMALL!
HEY!?
THESE AREN'T MINE!
TWO LOAVES! GRAZIE~
HERE!
THOSE ARE MINE!
!
!!!
NEXT!
WHO'S THE FOUR LOAF ORDER?

Chapter 5 Cortigiana pt. 1

Arte

Art and Story by
Kei Ohkubo

Artists can't work on on empty stomach!



KYAAA!
JOLT
ぱっ
CRASH
I CALMED DOWN AND THE PAIN FADED, SO I NEVER WENT
Ouch
I HAD THAT STABBING PAIN IN MY CHEST FACING MASTER LEO
HE REALLY THOUGHT I NEEDED TO GO TO THE DOCTOR
I feel better now!
WHY ...
DID YOU DO THAT?
SORRY
My tools are on the ground
THE DAY
I'VE FELT STRANGE SINCE
Phew, nothing broke
BUT
CLINK
CLANK

HE EVEN SCOLDED ME FOR SPACING OUT...
SPACED
Oh my gosh
BUMP
AND WHEN OUR BODIES TOUCH, EVEN SLIGHTLY, I JUMP
right here.
JUST HAVING HIS FACE CLOSE, I CAN'T BREATHE.
REALLY SICK OR SOME-THING?
AM I...
HERE.
OH!
THANK YOU!
SNAP
SLICE

OH, IS IT?!
I GOT SOME DOUGH-MAKING TIPS FROM THE BAKER!
IT'S BETTER THAN USUAL
むぐ
MUNCH
!
CHOMP
ぽろ
IF IT TASTES GOOD, HE'S NOT SHOWING IT ON HIS FACE...
VERY GOOD.
むしゃ
MUNCH
RIGHT
GOOD.
ぽぴ
POP
BUT...
AND IF HE DOES, IT'S ANYONE'S GUESS WHEN OR WHY...
What's he think-ing?
RARELY WEARS ANY KIND OF SMILE
...
TASTY
もぐ
MUNCH
MASTER LEO

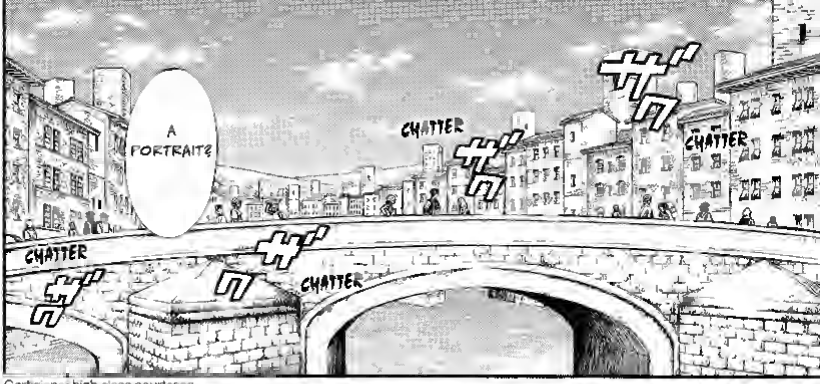
MAYBE?
COULD IT BE BECAUSE HE CAUGHT ME OFF-GUARD WITH THAT SMILE?
SO MUCH THAT IT GAVE ME CHEST PAINS...

I WANT TO...

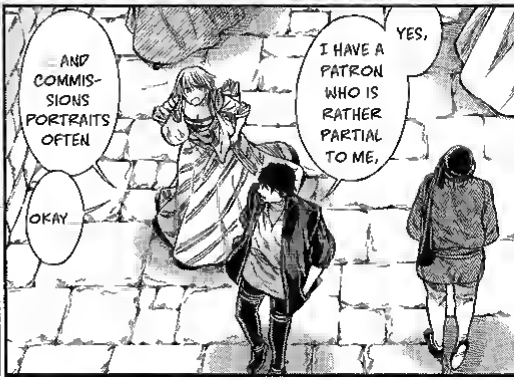
SEE THAT SMILE ONCE AGAIN.

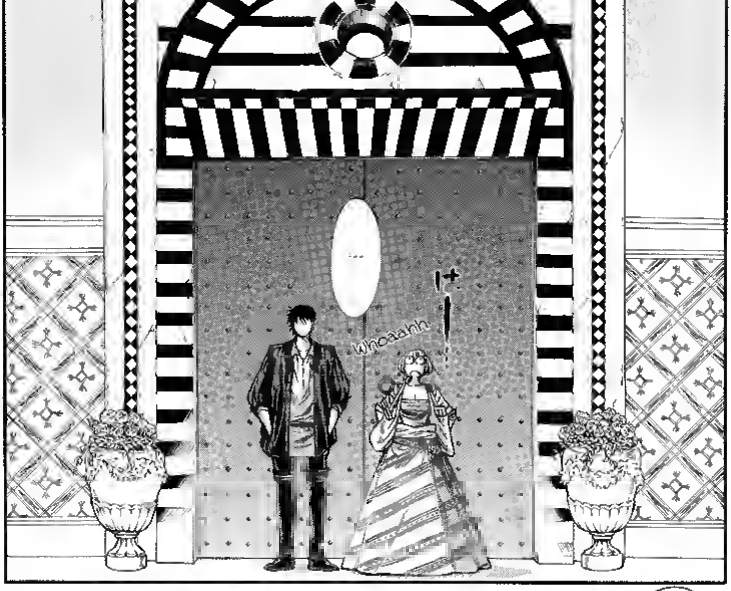
IF I DO,
PERHAPS THEN I'LL BE ABLE TO FIND OUT WHY I'VE BEEN FEELING SO STRANGE LATELY

HM?
?
!!!
EY
HEY!
STARTLE
ARE YOU LISTENING !?
S--
SORRY
STOP SPACING OUT
ARE YOU SICK?
OH !?
WHAT !?
WERE YOU SAYING SOME-THING?
WORK
WE'RE GOING AFTER LUNCH
YES
I DID IT
GLOOM
AGAIN

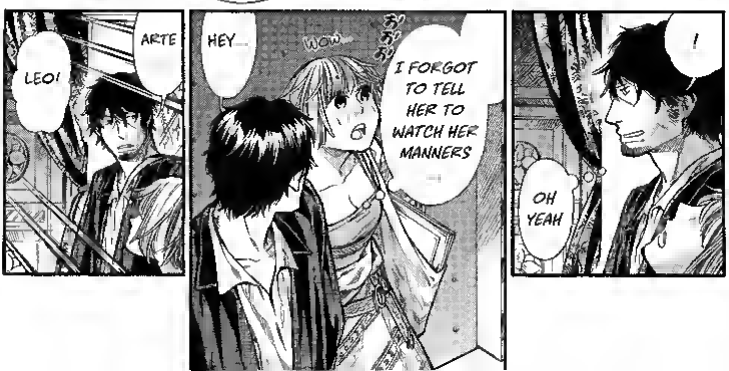


Cortigiana: high class courtesan



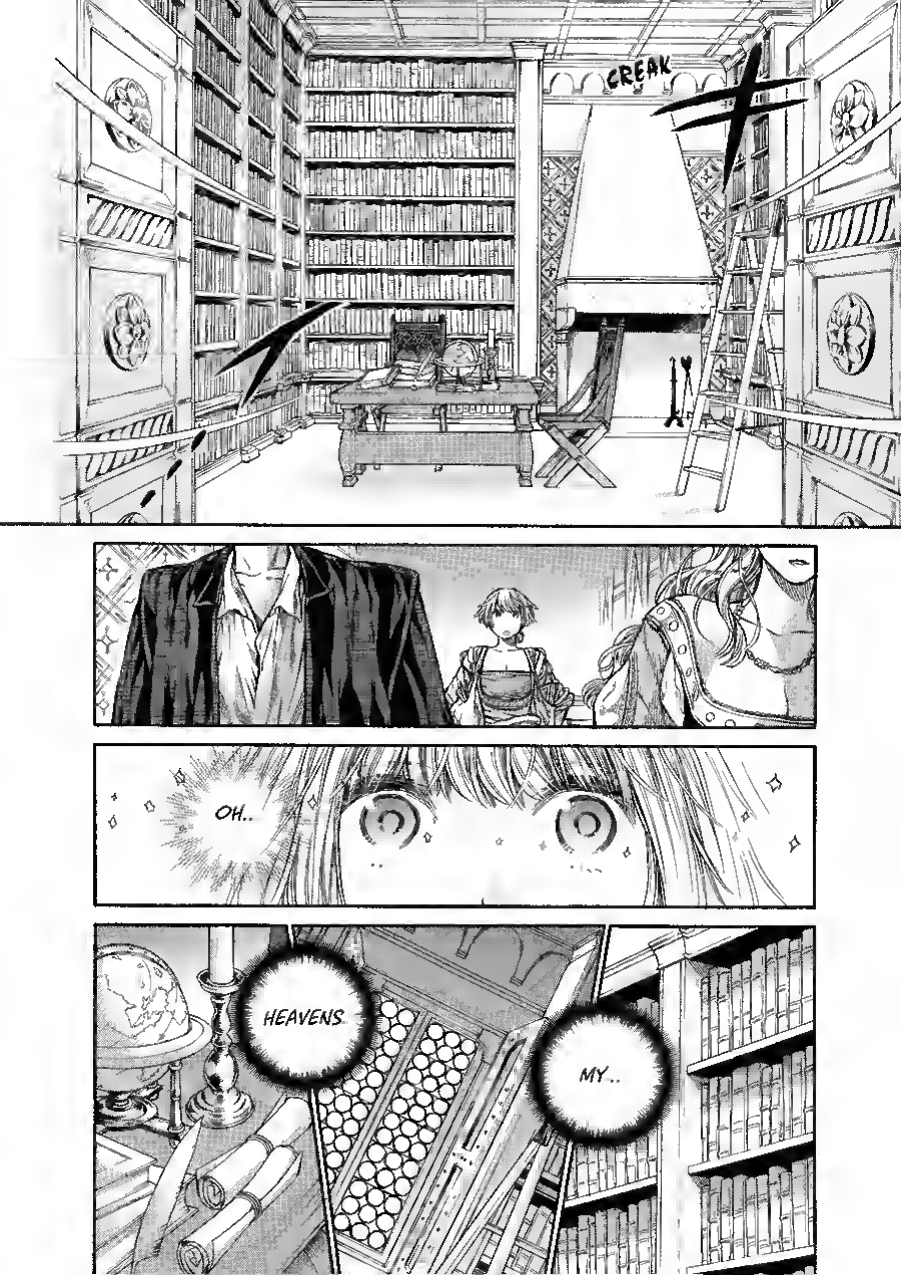

...
Whoaaahh
!+

IT'S AMA-ZING
OH!
NO.
SHE EARNED ALL THIS AS A CORTIGIANA.
WAS SHE BORN WEALTHY?


ARTE
LEO!
HEY...
WOW
I FORGOT TO TELL HER TO WATCH HER MANNERS
!
OH YEAH

THANK YOU AS ALWAYS FOR COMING
LEO
GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN
HOW UNEXPECTED!
WHO WOULD THIS LITTLE GIRL BE?
!
SWISH
!
SHE'S-

MASTER LEO'S APPRENTICE
ARTE, AT YOUR SERVICE
ELEGANCE
SLIDE
OH! MY, MY!
QUITE THE UPBRINGING TO BE ONE OF LEO'S
VERONICA
A PLEASURE
I RE-MEMBER NOW
I forgot
ARTE IS THE DAUGHTER OF A NOBLE FAMILY
SHIMMER
PLEASE, JOIN ME UPSTAIRS
THAT'S RIGHT...
...


CREAK
OH..
HEAVENS
MY..

ふふふふふ
hihihihi
THIS GENTLEMAN ENJOYS A WOMAN WITH INTELLECTUAL TASTES
SO, I CHOSE THE STUDY AS THE BACK-DROP
IS THERE
NO JUST
THERE ARE SO MANY BOOKS!
QUITE A COLLEC-TION, ISN'T IT?
WHAT?
TO ENTERTAIN A MAN, ONE MUST BE LEARNED
I'VE READ EVERY SINGLE ONE
SPARKLE
admiration
THAT'S
AMAZING
SPARKLE
SPARKLE
SPARKLE
キラ
キラ
キラ
キラ
WAIT
BUT
AREN'T YOU A FUNNY ONE
UH
EVIL EYE
TA!
HEE HEE!

THAT BOY FROM BEFORE AND THIS GIRL ARE ONE IN THE SAME
?
UM...
SO
THAT BOY AND THIS GIRL?
?
LOST
WASN'T THE APPRENTICE YOU HAD ALONG BEFORE A BOY?
?
SHE IS THAT APPREN-TICE
An—
Um...
Ahh ha ha
HOW DROLL!
YOU CERTAINLY HAD ME FOOLED!
AHH HA HA
PIT-A-PAT
ha ha ha
ha ha ha

WOW
NOW THAT I SEE HER...
SHE IS SO BEAUTIFUL... AND SHE HAS THE LOVELIEST EXPRESSIONS...
Ahh ha ha ha
YOU...
YOU SEEM QUITE TAKEN BY THE STUDY
DO YOU SEE A BOOK YOU WOULD LIKE TO BORROW?
REALLY!?
OH!
ARE YOU SURE!?
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
ARTE, WAS IT NOT?
YES!

YOU SHOULDN'T TURN THOSE SPARKLY EYES ON A LADY IN MY LINE OF WORK.
OR MAYBE
I THINK
I
YOU ARE AN INNOCENT LITTLE GIRL, UNAWARE OF WHAT I DO IN MY PROFESSION?
I KNOW WHAT IT IS YOU DO.
BUT SEEING THIS MOUNTAIN OF BOOKS
HOW CAN I NOT RESPECT YOU FOR THAT?
IT IS NOT YOUR PROFESSION,

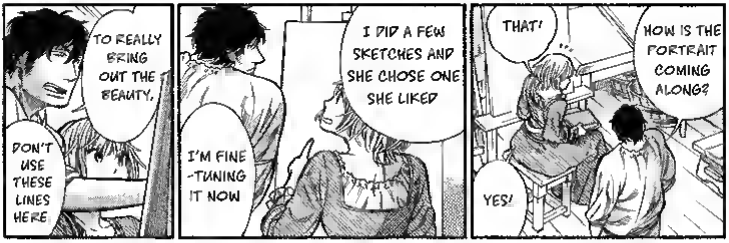
IT IS YOUR HARD WORK WHICH I RESPECT
BUT...
LEO
MY LADY
I WILL GIVE THE NORMAL FEE AND EXPENSES.
WHAT?
WHAT?
AND THE PAY?
I HAVE TAKEN A LIKING TO THIS ONE I WANT HER TO DO MY PORTRAIT THIS TIME
WHAT!?
KA-CLUNK
UNDER-STOOD
UNTIL THEN

WHAT WAS THAT!?
WHAT?
DON'T SPACE OUT COME, LET'S GO
B--
BUT
MASTER LEO!
CAN YOU EXPLAIN TO ME WHAT JUST HAPPENED?
YOU MEAN YOU DON'T KNOW?
YOU DID IT
ARTE
IT'S YOUR FIRST JOB

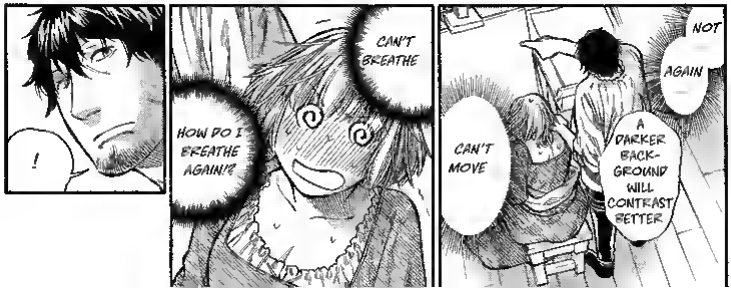
SOON AFTER, I BEGAN VISITING LADY VERONICA REGULARLY TO WORK ON HER PORTRAIT.
MY FIRST EVER-
COM-MIS-SION!
ALWAYS GENTLE
HERE'S ANOTHER YOU MIGHT ENJOY
ALWAYS KIND, EVEN TO A PAINTER'S APPREN-TICE LIKE ME
DID YOU FINISH THE BOOK I GAVE YOU LAST TIME?
VERONICA WAS
ARTE, WELCOME!
AND WITH HER BOUNTIFUL KNOWLEDGE AND TENDER WAY OF SPEAKING, SHE ENTERTAINED HER MALE CLIENTS
SHE HELD SALONS AT HER HOUSE

ANY TIME THAT SHE COULD SPARE SHE DEDICATED TO READING, SO SHE WOULD STAY CULTURED
WHENEVER I VISITED, SHE ALWAYS HAD A BOOK IN HAND
I
FOUND MYSELF
LOOKING TO HER WITH EVER MORE RESPECT AND ADMIRING HER ALL THE MORE AS I GOT TO KNOW HER

I KNOW TOO WELL HOW MUCH YOU LOVE VERONICA
OK, OK. I GOT IT
SHE PICKS THEM OUT JUST FOR ME!
ISN'T THAT WONDERFUL?
I CERTAINLY DID!
ANY BOOK FROM LADY VERONICA IS JUST SO INTERESTING!
that one
and that one
this one
YOU BORROWED A NEW BOOK AGAIN?


TO REALLY BRING OUT THE BEAUTY,
DON'T USE THESE LINES HERE
I DID A FEW SKETCHES AND SHE CHOSE ONE SHE LIKED
I'M FINE-TUNING IT NOW
THAT!
HOW IS THE PORTRAIT COMING ALONG?
YES!

GASP

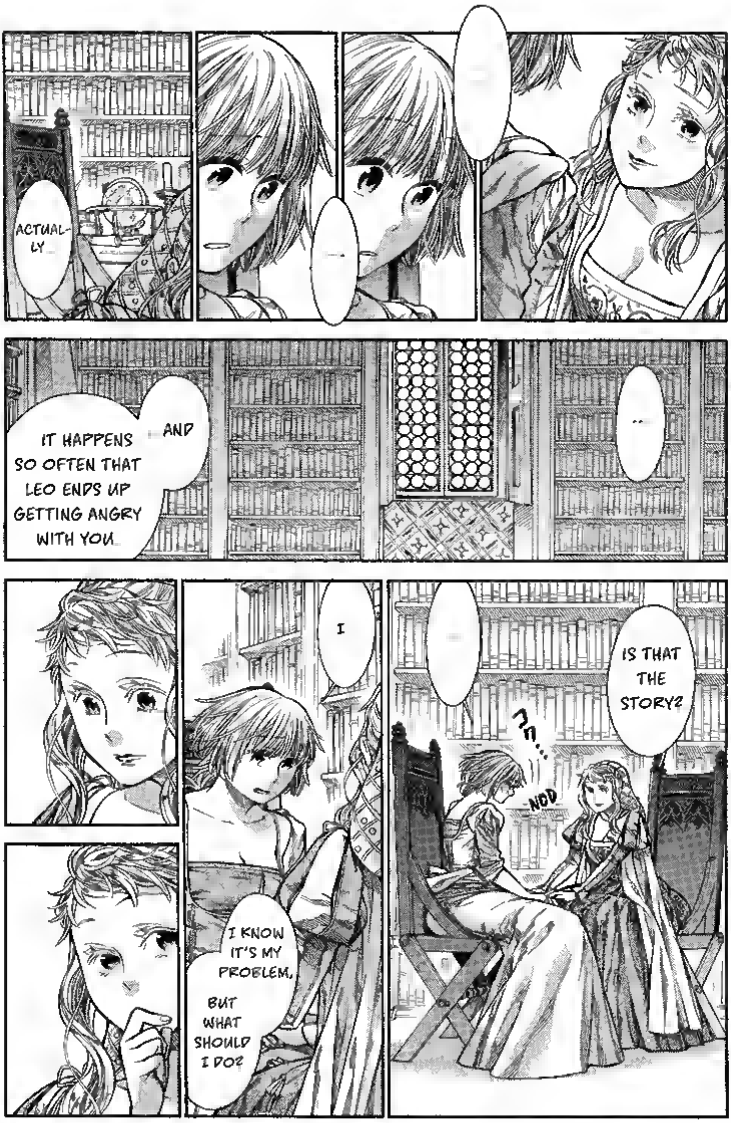

!
HOW DO I BREATHE AGAIN!?
CAN'T BREATHE
CAN'T MOVE
NOT AGAIN
A DARKER BACK-GROUND WILL CONTRAST BETTER

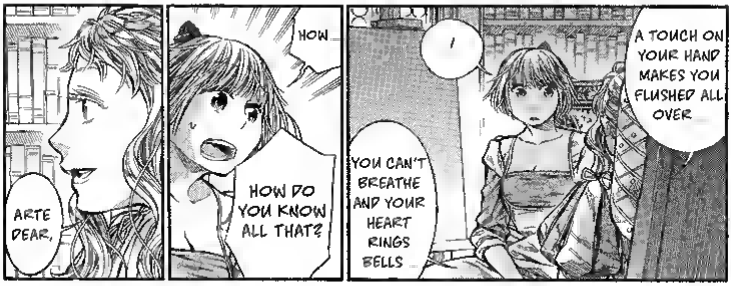
HEY! ARE YOU EVEN PAYING ATTEN-TION!?
FLINCH

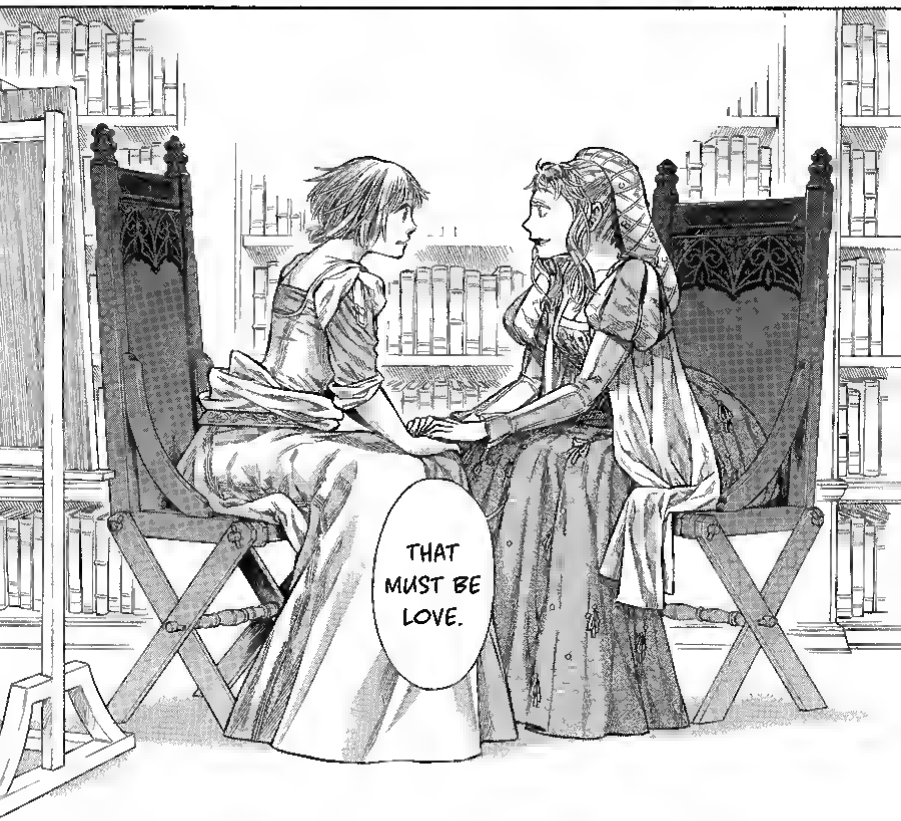
YOU
UH
YOUR HEART'S NOT IN IT LATELY

DO THE JOB RIGHT!
NO, THAT'S NOT
WHAT? ARE YOU SLACKING NOW THAT YOU'VE GOTTEN INTO A ROUTINE?
OR, HAS THE NOBLE GIRL LOST INTEREST?
I APOLO-GIZE

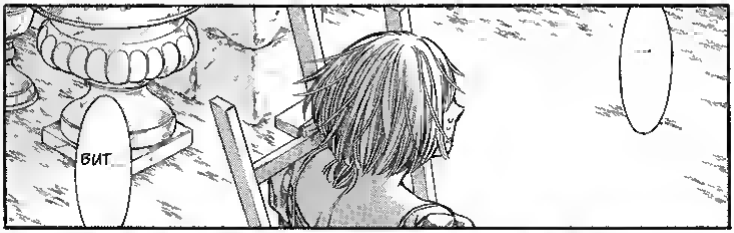
MY
ARTE, ARE YOU OK?
YOU SEEM DOWN
NO!
I'M FINE, I REALLY AM!
SORRY, DID I LOOK OTHERWISE?
NOPE! JUST FINE AND DANDY!
ha ha ha
ARTE PLEASE TALK TO ME IF SOMETHING IS WRONG.
I LIKE THE HAPPY YOU. IT WILL MAKE ME SAD IF YOU CARRY ON LIKE THIS.
REST

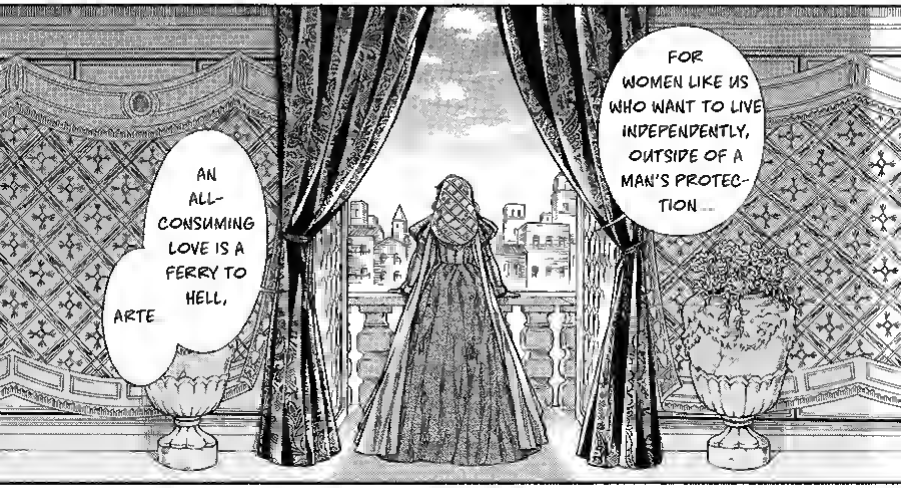

ACTUALLY...
...
IT HAPPENS SO OFTEN THAT LEO ENDS UP GETTING ANGRY WITH YOU...
AND
...
IS THAT THE STORY?
NOD
I
I KNOW IT'S MY PROBLEM, BUT WHAT SHOULD I DO?


ARTE DEAR,
HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THAT?
HOW
YOU CAN'T BREATHE AND YOUR HEART RINGS BELLS
A TOUCH ON YOUR HAND MAKES YOU FLUSHED ALL OVER


THAT MUST BE LOVE.

IT'S...
WELL
SWISH
I THINK THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY
WE SHALL DECIDE WHAT TO DO TOMOR-ROW
YES... MY LADY
L...
LOVE...?
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
HOW ADOR-ABLE...
IT'S HER FIRST LOVE


BUT...
...

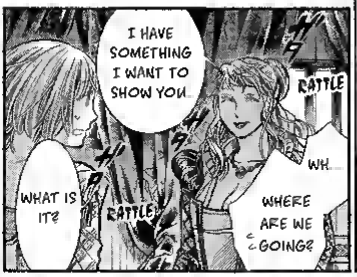

AN ALL-CONSUMING LOVE IS A FERRY TO HELL,
ARTE
FOR WOMEN LIKE US WHO WANT TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY, OUTSIDE OF A MAN'S PROTEC-TION...

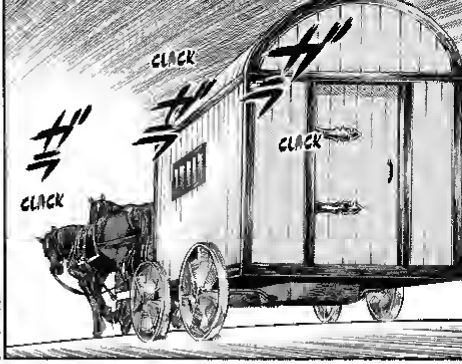
I'LL JUST ADD IT TO YOUR COMMISSION
SHOVE
BUT!
COME NOW, COME!

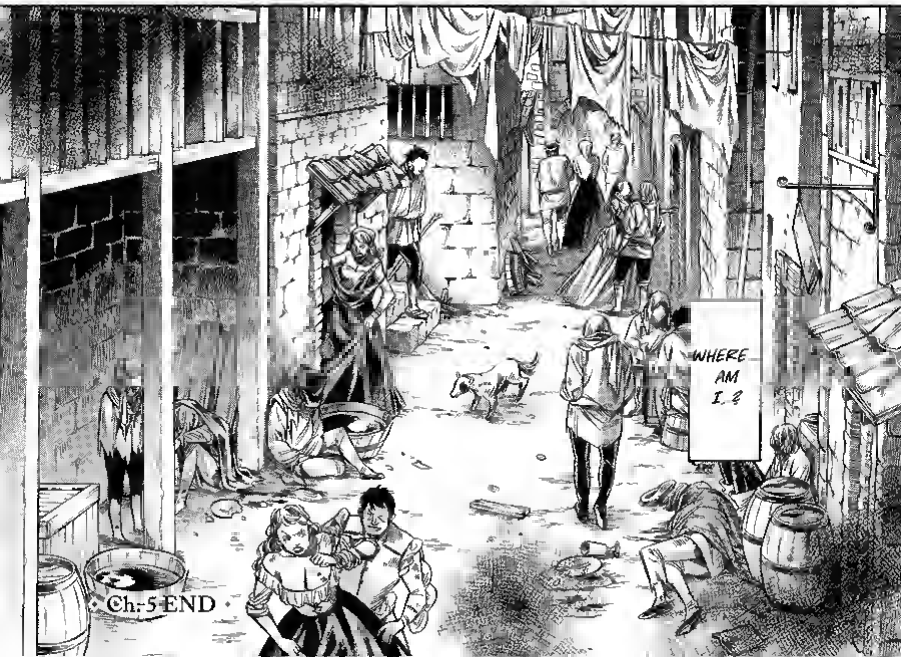
THIS WON'T DO! THE PORTRAIT WON'T BE FINISHED ON TIME!
MASTER LEO WILL BE MAD!
OH, IT'LL BE FINE!

NEXT DAY
PLEASE
LADY VERONICA!

What does Veronica want to show Artel?







Ch. 5 END

Lady Veronico brings Arte to a desalote slum. What will Arte witness?

Lady Veronica shows her true colours...